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 travel resource  
**New Hampshire**



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**1 Mountains and Lakes**

Soaring mountain ranges and crystal clear lakes offer days filled with the wonders of the natural world amidst the scenic splendor of the Granite State.

**DAY ONE**

**Wide World of Weather**

The northern reaches of the White Mountain National Forest take groups to a natural playland filled with outdoor adventures. Begin in the **Franconia Notch State Park** (603-745-8391) at the Flume Gorge Visitor Center and walk through the natural gorge discovered in 1808 that extends 800 feet at the base of Mount Liberty. Next, ride the **Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway** (603-823-8800) 4,180 feet to the summit of Cannon Mountain for spectacular views of the mountains of New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, New York and Canada. At nearby **Loon Mountain** (603-745-6281) in Lincoln, continue the outdoor adventure with wintertime tubing and snowshoeing or, in the summertime, enjoy horseback riding and biking. In North Conway, the ever-changing atmosphere takes the focus at the **Weather Discovery Center** (603-



356-2137) with hands-on, interactive exhibits and presentations about the Earth, its atmosphere and scientific observation.

**DAY TWO**

**Flights of Fancy**

Take to the skies at the dramatic mountaintop estate of Thomas Plant known as the **Castle in the Clouds** (603-476-5900). Built by the entrepreneur in 1914, the Arts and Crafts mansion sits high in the Ossipee Mountain range and offers breathtaking views of Lake Winnepesaukee and the mountains beyond. Forty-five miles of

**Franconia Notch State Park features a natural gorge discovered in 1808.**

hiking trails weave past cascading waterfalls and through stunning woodlands at a 5,500-acre estate that is the jewel of Moultonborough. In nearby Holderness, observe native New Hampshire wildlife in woodland enclosures at the **Squam Lakes Natural Science Center** (603-968-7194) and attend live animal programs to learn about the state's native bears, otters and bald eagles. Round out the day seeing picturesque Lake Winnepesaukee aboard the **M/S Mount Washington** (888-843-6686). Departing from five ports on the lake, the vessel offers a variety of cruising options including a Sunday Jazz Brunch Cruise.

**TRIP EXTENDER**

At the **Mount Washington Cog Railway** (603-278-2256) near Bretton Woods, coal-fired steam engines push single-passenger coaches along the steep grade to the top of Mt. Washington, a journey that the railway has made since 1866. At the summit, enjoy dramatic vistas of four states, Québec and the Atlantic Ocean.

**Nature's Best**

New Hampshire's abundant wildlife takes the spotlight at the many nature centers and parks that showcase the incredible flora and fauna of the Granite State.

- **Loon Center** (603-476-5666) in Moultonborough. Discover one of the state's more elusive natives, the common loon, at a center located at the 200-acre Markus Wildlife Sanctuary. Found on the most pristine shoreline along Lake Winnepesaukee, the facility has two walking trails along the lake's banks and features exhibits created by the Loon Preservation Committee.
- **Highland Center** (603-278-4453) in Crawford Notch. Look for animal tracks, spot unusual birds and hike through historic Crawford Park at a center that offers all-inclusive outdoor adventures and educational programs for groups visiting the White Mountains.
- **Lubberland Creek Preserve** (603-224-5853) in Newmarket. At the Nature Conservancy's 120-acre preserve, stroll through hickory and hemlock forests to see songbirds, porcupines and deer, and visit extensive beaver pools and wetland basins that abound with reptile and amphibian species.

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## 2 Boston's Doorstep

Extending from Boston to the New Hampshire border, the North of Boston region welcomes visitors to savor its maritime history and historic treasures.

### DAY ONE

#### Seafaring Life

Explore maritime art and much more in Salem at the expansive **Peabody Essex Museum** (978-745-9500). With its wide-ranging collections including Asian, African, American decorative and Native American art, the Peabody boasts more than 2.4 million works spanning the globe, making the facility one of the world's pre-eminent art museums. For a more in-depth exploration of the marine heritage of the area, travel east to the **Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center** (978-281-0470), the only working historic waterfront in the Northeast. Highlights include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology fish hatchery;

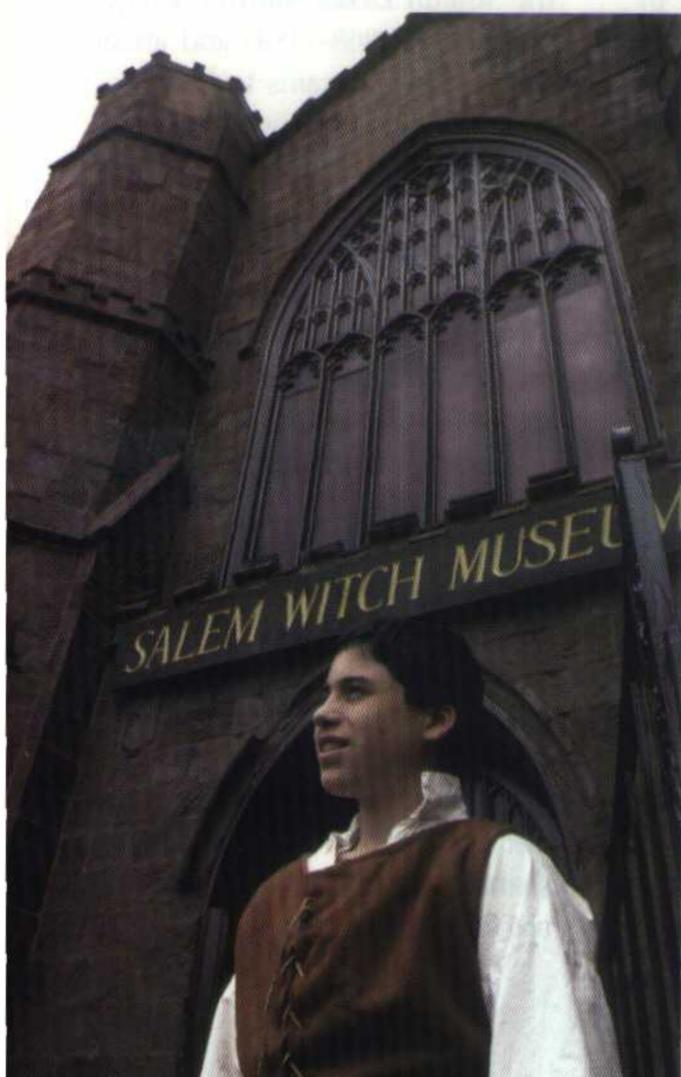
the ongoing reconstruction of the *Eleanor*, one of the vessels involved in the Boston Tea Party; and the 1847 Burnham Brothers Marine Railway. From Gloucester, head west to Newburyport and the **Custom House Maritime Museum** (978-462-8681). Housed in an 1835 custom house that once served as the hub of a thriving international port, the museum interprets the maritime heritage of the region, including aspects such as shipbuilding, trade and the Coast Guard.

### DAY TWO

#### Witchy Woman

Return to Salem to visit the oldest surviving 17th-century wooden mansion in New England, **The House of the Seven Gables** (978-744-0991). The historic home inspired author Nathaniel Hawthorne to write his legendary novel of the same name and it remains one of the area's most-visited sites. Explore an infamous chapter in Salem's history at the **Witch House** (978-744-8815), home of witch trials judge Jonathan Corwin. The historic house offers tours blending information about 17th-century lifestyles with insights into the witchcraft trials of 1692. Gain further insight into the tragic events of 1692 at the **Salem Witch Museum** (978-744-1692). Using stage sets, life-size figures and narration, the museum transports visitors back to a time of suspicion and fear when hundreds were accused of witchcraft and imprisoned or executed.

**Witchcraft is the theme of the Salem Witch Museum.**



ROBERT HOLMES

### SPECIAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS IN MASSACHUSETTS

#### Lowell Folk Festival (A 2007 ABA Top 100 Event)

July 27-29: (978-275-1706) Each July, the largest free folk festival in the United States takes place over three days and offers music, food, craft demonstrations and dancing from around the United States and the world. Music performed on six outdoor stages features zydeco, mariachi, bomba, the blues, fado, raga, rockabilly and more.

#### The Big E (A 2007 ABA Top 100 Event)

Sept. 14-30: (800-334-2443) More than 1 million visitors descend on West Springfield for the largest fair in the Northeast. This festival is the only event in the United States where six states come together for 17 days each fall. Enjoy free top-name entertainment on two stages as well as specialty acts, the Big E Super Circus, the Avenue of States, Storowton Village Museum, celebrity chefs, blue-ribbon animal husbandry shows, a midway and more than 700 retail vendors.

#### Working Waterfront Festival (A 2007 ABA Top 100 Event)

Sept. 22-23: (508-993-8894) Held in New Bedford, the festival features demonstrations and contests that show off industry skills honed over generations. The U.S. Coast Guard presents on-board vessel tours and rescue demonstrations, harbor tours present a view of the port from the water, and performances of live seafaring songs, ethnic music, storytelling, theater and poetry take place on several stages.

#### 18th Annual Harvest Fest and Scarecrow Contest

Oct. 20-21: (800-782-5425) Against a colorful palette of fall foliage, multihued scarecrows welcome visitors to enjoy an unusual artistic display and vote for the best scarecrow at the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge. The event also features a pumpkin-decorating contest, farmer's market, local crafters and artisans.

### LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

#### Destinations: What are the details of the Mayflower II anniversary?

**Paula Fisher**, marketing manager for the **Plymouth County CVB** (508-747-0100) in Plymouth: The Mayflower II is commemorating its 50th anniversary in 2007. On July 21, the Mayflower II will sail out into Cape Cod Bay to celebrate when the ship came over from England in 1957. Around that time, there will be several other wonderful activities going on. For example, the third annual Plymouth Film Festival runs from July 19-22 and brings workshops and screening of a wide variety of films to Plymouth.

#### Any other news from your CVB?

The Lady Atlantic arrived in June, adding to the nightlife of Plymouth with dinner cruises out into the bay. We also have another fun nighttime thing to do—the Dead of Night Ghost Tours. These are historical tours with a paranormal lean that invites people to bring their cameras in hopes of capturing ghostly images... I'd [also] recommend taking the Plymouth Rock Trolley to Flax Pond Cranberry Farms. From mid-September to the end of October, it's an opportunity to see the cranberry harvest with the bright red berries and deep blue skies against the backdrop of the autumn foliage.

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For more information, contact the **New Hampshire Division of Travel & Tourism** at (603) 271-2665; [www.visitnh.gov](http://www.visitnh.gov)

## 2 The Quiet Corner

Take time to enjoy the quiet splendor of New Hampshire's southwest quadrant before heading off to the state's capital and beyond.

### DAY ONE

#### Working Market

Start the tour with a shop-till-you-drop extravaganza at the **Colony Mill Marketplace** (603-357-1240) in Keene where a 150-year-old former mill has been transformed into a regional shopping haven of fine boutiques, restaurants and entertainment. For a change of pace, enjoy the sights and sounds of a working farm at **Stonewall Farm** (603-357-7278), a dairy farm known for its Belgian horse hayrides, nature walks and educational programs. From Keene, head southeast to Rindge and the **Cathedral in the Pines** (603-899-3300). The monument overlooking Mt. Mon-

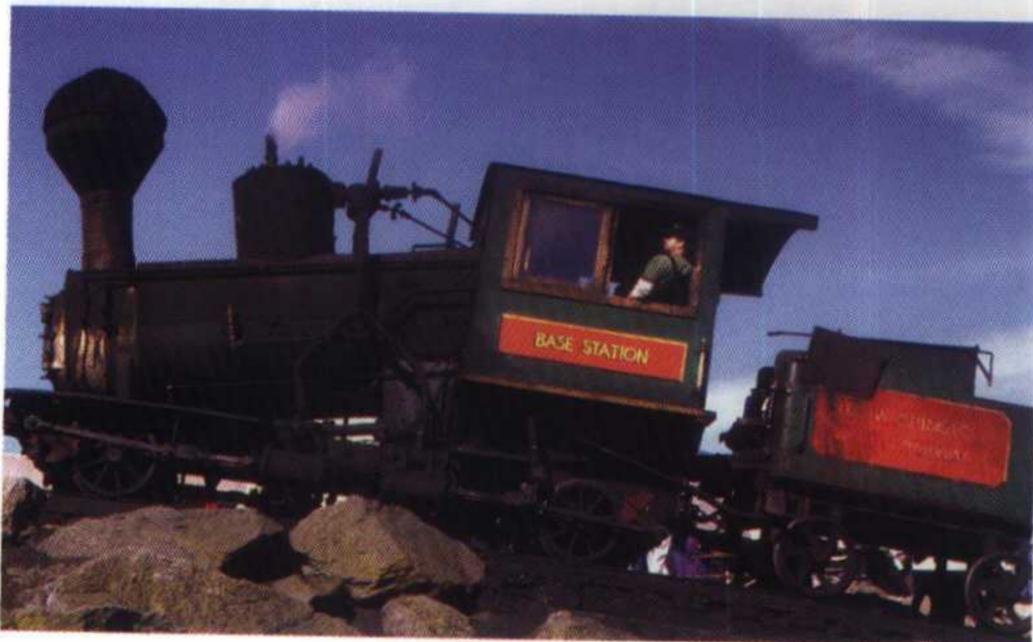
**The Mount Washington Cog Railway offers stunning views from atop Mt. Washington.**

adnock stands as a peaceful reminder of the sacrifices made by all American service people and offers visitors a quiet spot for meditation along its garden-lined walkways.

### DAY TWO

#### Fish Tales

From Rindge, head northeast to Manchester for an unusual learning adventure at the **Amoskeag Fishways Learning and Visitors Center** (603-626-3474). The award-winning environmental education center next to the Amoskeag Falls Hydro Station focuses on the Merrimack River watershed, hydroelectric power and fish biology. In May and June, visitors can look through underwater windows to see migrating fish use a 54-step fish ladder that allows them to swim around the Amoskeag Dam. Continue the science explorations at the **SEE Science Center** (603-669-0400) where the Moonwalk exhibit simulates life on the moon and the Engineer Design Lab investigates robots and their programming. Finish the day at the **Currier Museum of Art** (603-669-6144) for the recently reopened Zimmerman House, the only Frank Lloyd Wright-designed residence open to the public in New England.



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### SPECIAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### Annual League of New Hampshire Craftsmen's Fair (A 2007 ABA Top 100 Event)

Aug. 4-12: (603-224-3375) As one of the oldest craft fairs in the country, this event in Concord garners both prestige and attention from crafters and attendees. More than 350 craftsmen—all state-joined members of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen—set up about 200 booths where they can display their creations and talk with passersby about their fine, contemporary and traditional handcrafts.

#### 16th Annual North Country Moose Festival

Aug. 24-26: (603-237-8939) Enjoy a celebration of the majestic moose in the North Country towns of Colebrook and Pittsburg. Festivities kick off on Friday with a street fair and quilt show and extend through the weekend with a Moose Country Fair, flycasting competitions, historical buggy rides, Moose Stew Cook-Off and a moose-calling contest.

#### New Hampshire Gathering of the Scottish Clans Inc. (A 2007 ABA Top 100 Event)

Sept. 22-24: (800-358-7268) As the largest Scottish cultural festival in the Northeast, this three-day event features pageantry, world-class athletic competition and authentic Scottish food and drink. Highlights include Celtic concerts and a ceremonial Gathering of the Scottish Clans and Massed Pipe Bands, as well as workshops on whisky tasting, Scottish history and Scottish Country and Cape Breton dance.

#### Keene Pumpkin Festival

Oct. 20: (603-358-5344) Each fall, the city of Keene comes alive with the sights and sounds of this annual community celebration. Thousands contribute to the spectacle by bringing their own hand-carved pumpkins. The sight of more than 25,000 brightly lit jack-o-lanterns lining Keene's Main Street and towering over the square makes for an unforgettable experience.

### LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

#### Destinations: What do groups enjoy most about visiting Portsmouth?

**Marge Hubbard**, vice president and tourism manager of the **Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce** (603-610-5517): Portsmouth is an extremely walkable city that puts 400 years of American history literally at our visitors' feet. For example, we have a number of Harbour Trail walking tours where knowledgeable guides take [visitors] through Portsmouth's historic downtown to hear fascinating stories of early settlers, patriots, ship builders and entrepreneurs.

#### Tell us a little about your eco-tourism options.

Portsmouth stands at the mouth of the Piscataqua River, which is the second-fastest flowing river with its own one-of-a-kind ecosystem to explore. A great place to start would be Great Bay, which is a large tidal bay upriver that is accessible by boat tour and by land at several visitor centers maintained by conservation groups. In Portsmouth, bird-watching opportunities abound because the ecosystem attracts field and forest birds, waterfowl and raptors, including eagles.